

OTHER BUSINESS

Resolution No. 2018 - 14: Authorization to Submit Grant Application to PA DCED Greenways Trails and Recreation Grant Program (Welsh Road)

Mr. McAnally stated the above Resolution No. 2018 - 14 authorizes the submission of an application to the Department of Community and Economic Development's Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grant Program financed through the Commonwealth Financing Authority, for the Welsh Road Trail and Pedestrian Bridge Project. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Dr. Booth to adopt Resolution No. 2018 -14: Authorization to Submit Grant Application to PA DCED Greenways Trails and Recreation Grant Program (Welsh Road). The motion carried 5 - 0.

Public Works Department Equipment Authorization

Mr. DeStefano asked for permission to purchase a John Deere 60G compact excavator with Helac Power Tilt Grading Swivel and a Hydraulic Demolition hammer attachment through Plasterer Equipment and the Costars program at a total purchase price of \$94,882.00. He stated this John Deere 60 G Compact Excavator has a smaller footprint. He stated this will replace two of the oldest backhoes. Dr. Booth asked why not lease/rent the equipment. Mr. DeStefano stated it would cost approximately \$1,600 per month to lease/rent the equipment. Mr. Grey made a motion, seconded by Dr. Booth to approve the purchase of the 2018 John Deere 60G Compact Excavator in the amount of \$94,882.00. The motion carried 5 - 0.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Report from the Manager - Municipal activities, projects

Mr. McAnally stated a Special ZHB Meeting regarding Johns Lane is scheduled for Monday, May 14, 2018.

He stated both the Assistant Manager and Manager will be attending the APMM Conference May 15, 16, 17, 2018.

Mr. McAnally stated the Public Works Department started work on the rain gardens.

SUPERVISORS/STAFF COMMENTS

Mark Grey had two questions for Ken Amey. One, how close are we to a sign ordinance? Mr. McAnally stated the Sign Ordinance is still in the Building and Zoning subcommittee working on a proposed draft for the Boards review. Mr. Brandt stated the Bethlehem Pike businesses should be aware. Two, the status of the Draft Zoning Ordinance for the Merck Property. Mr. McAnally stated the need for a Zoning Ordinance was overruled by the Building and Zoning subcommittee. Mr. Grey asked how that's possible. He read an excerpt from the March 13, 2018 minutes for the audience.

Mr. Grey stated in his nine years on the Board no committee or subcommittee has overturned a motion of the Board of Supervisors. He read the Building and Zoning Subcommittee minutes of April 2, 2018 stated *the committee agreed there is no interest in having the property rezoned at this time*. Ms. Hunsicker stated it is a conceptual plan. Mr. Grey stated after a full vote from the Board no work has been done. Mr. Amey works for the Board not the subcommittee. It is Mr. Amey's job to execute the motion and if there is confusion he comes back to the Board. Mr. Grey stated the motion is legally binding and the property could have value for higher taxes. He said who is the Building and Zoning Subcommittee to undermine the supervisors and elected officials; and keep them from doing their job. Ms. Hunsicker stated it was not overruled; the process was streamlined. Mr. Grey stated the request should have proceeded through the normal process, but the Building and Zoning Subcommittee instructed them not to pursue the draft ordinance. He noted nothing was done in two months. This means my vote does not count. He asked for an opinion from the Solicitor if a subcommittee can overrule the vote of the full Board.

Mr. Brandt said Mr. Grey is correct. He noted he set up the Subcommittee system years ago to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Dr. Booth stated it is not the Board's decision on what to do with the Merck property. Mr. Grey stated the Board asked Mr. Amey to draft an ordinance so the Board can vote on it, but not bury it. Dr. Booth stated the Building and Zoning Subcommittee did not think it appropriate to go forward. Mr. Grey stated Mr. Amey was directed by unanimous vote. Ms. Hunsicker stated Mr. Amey needs some clarity in order to draft the ordinance. Mr. Brandt stated the Board has not conceptually figured out how a property should be zoned in advance, we would wait for developers to present plans for development to staff and the Board and then fine tune a plan for development not before, and he is not in favor of doing it now. Mr. Paccione stated what about the DOW site. Ms. Hunsicker stated the Merck property has a deed restriction and cannot be changed to residential. Dr. Booth stated we do not want it build out with more homes and townhomes. Mr. McAnally stated Mr. Amey has the direction to show setbacks for residential and commercial; the developer's attorney draws up an ordinance, and Lower Gwynedd Township staff adjust it. Mr. Paccione stated a roadmap for the Merck property would give the Township a chance to be proactive instead of reactive. Ms. Hunsicker stated the conceptual plan for Merck was halted with the deed restriction. She agrees the Township should be proactive; and her recommendation is to talk to Mr. Amey and see what he needs. Mr. McAnally stated he will put him on the May 22 Agenda. Mr. Grey does not want to lose any more time.

Mr. Grey stated the staff does as the Board directs. He stated there was clear language in the Board minutes and the Building and Zoning minutes. He stated it is illegal and unethical and he objects to the subcommittee overruling the Board. He wants something from the Solicitor and something from Mr. Amey in two weeks. Mr. McAnally stated he needs more time. Mr. Grey stated he wanted progress between now and then and let us know if there are any questions.

Mark Schafer, resident, would like full disclosure on this issue so the public is aware.

Mr. Denlinger stated the committee is to review and give recommendations to the Board; and Mr. Grey's issue is based on the approved motion not being handled correctly.

Mr. Paccione stated we did not ask the Building and Zoning Subcommittee for a recommendation. Ms. Hunsicker stated open space is a premium. She said there is a lot of pressure on that property and typically a developer comes in with a plan and starts the dialogue; and once we change the zoning the Building and Zoning Subcommittee felt the Township would lose negotiating power.

Mr. Grey stated the process is not for the committee to review, they report to us. Mr. Grey said the decision has been made, staff needs to execute; this is outrageous and diminishes my vote. He said it is unethical and criminally wrong. He asked the Solicitor for a written response to this and if there are any sanctions. Ms. Hunsicker stated Mr. Amey is not present tonight because he had another meeting.

There being no further questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. until the next Regular Meeting scheduled on May 22, 2018 at the Lower Gwynedd Township Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Culbreth
Assistant Secretary